

## Court Information Release



United States District Court  
Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division  
219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604

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United States District Court for  
the Northern District of Illinois  
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### **Judge Martha M. Pacold Sworn-in as District Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois**

Chicago, Ill. - In a private ceremony, Judge Martha M. Pacold was sworn-in as a U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois. She is the first Asian-American woman to serve as district judge in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

“We are so pleased to welcome Judge Pacold to our court. She brings both experience in public service and the private sector that will benefit the Northern District of Illinois,” said Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer.

Judge Martha M. Pacold earned her undergraduate degree from Indiana University and her law degree from University of Chicago Law School. Judge Pacold clerked for Judge Arthur Raymond Randolph of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, Judge Jay Bybee of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. Judge Pacold then joined the Department of Justice as Counsel to Attorney General Alberto Gonzales. After a year, she joined the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Virginia as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney. In 2007, Judge Pacold joined the Chicago Office of Bartlit Beck Herman Palenchar & Scott LLP as an associate and later as a partner. In 2017, she left that position to serve as Executive Secretary in the U.S. Department of the Treasury. She became Deputy General Counsel months later and served in that capacity until she became a district judge. The President nominated Judge Pacold to the seat vacated by Judge John W. Darrah, who took senior status on March 1, 2017.

District court judges are nominated by the President and confirmed by the United States Senate, as stated in the Constitution. The Senate Judiciary Committee typically conducts confirmation hearings for each nominee. Article III of the Constitution states that these judicial officers are appointed for a life term.

Judge Pacold will immediately receive a caseload of 342 randomly-assigned civil cases and will immediately be added to the civil case assignment system in order to be assigned new cases.

A formal investiture ceremony for Judge Pacold will be held at a later date.

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